



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### **FORMER LEAF RIVER VOLUNTEER FIREMAN SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR ARSON**

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, & Explosives; PAUL A. LOGLI, Winnebago County State's Attorney; RICHARD A. MEYERS, Chief of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department; DAVID B. FOREMAN, Illinois State Fire Marshal; TODD STOCKBURGER, Chief of the Winnebago Police Department; and ROB MARTIN, Chief of the Winnebago Fire Department, today made the following announcement:

Today, United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard sentenced **MATHEW M. BOOK**, 35 (DOB: 4/17/71), formerly of 9682 Montague Road, Winnebago, Illinois, to 60 months in federal prison, without parole, for arson. Book was indicted on July 11, 2006, by a federal grand jury in Rockford and charged with maliciously starting a fire on May 10, 2006, which destroyed a storage building and grain elevator located at 2758 Alworth Road, Winnebago, Illinois.

Book pleaded guilty to the charge on September 22, 2006, admitting that on May 10, 2006, between approximately 12:30 a.m. and 1:15 a.m., he went to 2758 Alworth Road in Winnebago, Illinois and entered a storage building with a grain elevator. The building was used in the operation of a farm service and supply company. Book admitted that he had previously been employed by the company. The storage building was connected to a natural gas line, had a 250 gallon oil drum inside, and contained several types of farm chemicals. Book admitted that he started a pile of saw dust and some wooden boards on fire and left the building. Book further admitted that he started the fire near the 250 gallon oil drum and that when he left the building, the flames were 6-8 inches high. The storage building was completely destroyed as result of the fire.

In addition to 60 months in prison, the court ordered Book to serve 3 years of supervised release following his release from prison. Book was also ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment, and \$700,424.77 in restitution.

The case was investigated by the Rockford office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, with the assistance of the Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office, the Winnebago Police Department, and the Winnebago Fire Department. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph C. Pedersen.

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